

## **Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Commission Meeting**

**Wednesday September 23, 2015**

**Commission Members:** Barbara Fuqua, Nicole Griffin, David Hummons, Lily Kleinlein, Dianne Shewmaker

**Staff:** Michael Shermis, Savannah Wormley

The meeting began at 5:32 pm. Michael introduced Savannah, the new IU intern who will be working with CFRD all year. One of her tasks is to create a record of the history of the MLK Commission.

**Minutes:** David made a motion to approve the August minutes, Barbara seconded, all approved.

**Treasurer Report:** Michael said that he's still waiting for formal instruction on how the finances for commissions should be allocated and tracked. Since commissions will not directly receive funding, we will need to continue to raise money through donations and grants. David asked for more clarification, and whether our solicitations will need to express that the money is not in our control. Michael said he's still waiting for formal word, but we should continue to raise money as we always have, with the understanding that we can use the funds for our event as we always have. David asked about using funds to support expenses for commissioners to attend trainings or out of town events, and Michael said we cannot use any of the funds that come through the commission for those type of expenses.

**Staff Liaison Report:** Michael and Savannah presented the video contest poster. The form is up to submit videos online, and Michael is going to reach out to key contacts so they can get the words out to kids. David questioned if the \$50 prize is enough. He suggested raising it to \$75 or \$100 so more youth will submit videos. Lily didn't think \$75/100 would necessarily translate to more involvement, Dianne and Lily thought \$50 was a generous prize, and Nicole reminded that it is most important that the recognition and award are meaningful, not necessarily how much money one comes away with. Nicole also said the group and individual prizes should have a similar value, and Michael said that value would be around \$50. Others agreed and said that we should continue to focus our award more on the positive recognition than the monetary value.

David suggested we set a theme for the video contest: "Keep the Faith: March toward Social Justice" He thinks this could apply to the push back against the progress being made toward social justice and the knowledge that progress isn't always smooth or continuous. Michael said that when the students go online to look up more information about the contest, they will be given several ideas for video themes. He can add "Keep the Faith" to this list, but did not think it wise to limit the students to just one theme. He said that next month when we discuss our event theme we could consider this idea for the event. Nicole suggested we decide about new contest themes/prompts over email if needed.

Michael shared a draft of the ad for the NAACP booklet. Nicole suggested adding a border. David suggested Michael change the wording to include more about the many great people we've had in the past and the many great people we might have in the future, and how this year is a part of that tradition of outstanding speakers.

The RFP is going out in the next couple of days, and the DEMA request is almost ready for submission. Michael received instruction to send a request via email that simply outlines what our event is, how much we are requesting, and any potential partners. Last year we got \$3,000. Michael is going to

request \$3,500 to include any extra costs that might be incurred from the second day, but that it is too much to ask for \$4000 if the IU groups don't end up planning anything for a second day.

Michael is working on the task list for the event and reports and all is coming together quickly.

#### **Old Business:**

**Newsletter Feature Volunteer:** David will be the next highlighted commissioner.

#### **New Business:**

**Power of Words/Wisdom Circles:** All agreed that the event was great, and David attended a Wisdom Circle that was good as well. Nicole thanked Michael for all of his hard work on the event.

**2016 Theme/Speaker:** In previous meetings we discussed inviting Brittany to speak on issues of racial and economic inequality. We still don't have a signed and returned contract yet, so it has been difficult to move forward with a theme or publicity. The contract is still in the works.

Michael just received a notice of interest for 2017 from Cheryl Ifill and Jannae Nelson. Michael said we should consider this soon so we don't miss out on the opportunity if interested.

**Meeting Rescheduling:** Nicole said that the November and December meetings should be rescheduled because they both fall over holiday breaks. The new meeting date, November 18, will include two meetings, because we need to meet first to review the grant applications. The first part of the meeting will begin at 3:00 (grant review), and will be followed with a 5:30 regular meeting where we can vote to approve the recommendations. We will also meet on December 16 at 5:30, the week before winter break. All agreed that these dates will work. In preparation for the grant review, Michael shared that last year Big Brothers Big Sisters never reported any information back about their project. Michael was in touch with Executive Director, Mark Volland, several times but received no formal follow up reports. This meant the City had to turn in incomplete reports, which could impact future grants. Michael wanted the group to know in case they apply again. David felt it would be unfair to allow BBBS to apply if we know we aren't going to fund them. Michael clarified that any group is welcome to apply for the grant, but each year we determine who and how much to award and we should consider whether we want to approve any group who didn't comply with the grant requirements.

**Youth Awards MLK Program Involvement:** Michael said that CFRD and Mayor Kruzan would like us to use the various youth award winners (Young Black Male, Hispanic Youth, SWAGGER, Youth Council) for some role in the MLK Birthday Celebration. Nicole suggested we allow them to introduce speakers at the event, and David said we could pair them up and that way some commissioners could still have a speaking role in the event. We all agreed to move forward with some level of involvement if possible.

**MLK Tabling:** Michael said there would only be room for 2 tables in the outer lobby of BCT and 1 table in the inner lobby. There could be 6 tables upstairs, but it is really out of the way and cramped. He thought that with our reception it could still work because people can come and go, but we would have to think quickly on who we want to invite. Lily suggested Bet put together something from the Volunteer Network that would include most service groups. Commissioners discussed inviting BVN and NAACP to use the lobby and we could use the inner lobby for our own table. We could invite other groups within the next month if we want, but for now we decided to just go with the 3 tables.

**AME Church Collaboration:** This topic was tabled because Dan Enslow wasn't present. Lily suggested waiting until February when our meetings are less packed with event details. David said he would reach out to Dan for clarification on what he has in mind. Nicole suggested Dan reach out to the AME Church first to make sure they are interested, and that we could invite them all to a meeting to discuss any collaborations. All agreed that we will likely not plan any new events until the spring.

**Commissioner Vacancy:** We still have a vacancy and anyone interested in joining the commission should apply through the Clerk's office.

**Liaison Reports:**

**Commission on the Status of Black Males:** David said that there was a discussion at their last meeting about Black Lives Matter and they have invited representatives from the group to come to a future meeting. They are still trying to determine what sort of hands-on or educational projects to move forward with, and which groups they will collaborate with for their focus on minority health. They would like to arrange 2-3 organized sessions at community centers within Bloomington neighborhoods to talk with youth about what their biggest concerns are. David is continuing his involvement with the task force on creating a system of Juvenile Detention Alternatives. They hope to find unique ways to keep at-risk kids out of the system and in the community with their peers. They are looking into alternatives for suspensions and expulsions and are collaborating with social service agencies. David hopes that he can find ways for IU students to be involved and he would still like the MLK Commission to collaborate on something with the group soon.

**NAACP:** Dianne announced the Freedom Fund Banquet on Oct. 10. Mayor Kruzan will give the keynote.

**Announcements:**

Michael announced that David Hummons was the recipient of the Maurice Endwright Award from Area 10 Agency on Aging. He was nominated by CFRD and others. Congratulations, David!

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 6:31pm.